DRAYTON HALL

12 miles west of Charleston on South Carolina Route 61

Unquestionably one of the oldest and finest plantation houses in America, this noble Georgian building was completed in 1742. Its brick facade is centered by a two-story portico—one of the first of its type in the country—reached by a double flight of stairs. Inside, the entrance hall, with its elaborate stair arrangement, paneled walls, and ornamental ceiling, is one of colonial America's finest rooms. Drayton survived the Civil War unscathed through its legendary use as a smallpox hospital and was never altered or "updated" in subsequent years. Owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation since 1974, Drayton Hall is presented as a museum with emphasis on its outstanding architecture and workmanship.